# County Clerk Connection

3rd Quarter 2008



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### Geri Grigsby

"Deputy Commissioner"

Geri Grigsby has recently joined the Department of Vehicle Regulation as Deputy Commissioner, reporting to Commissioner Dan Glass. Prior to her appointment, Geri served as Chief of Staff to the Senate Democratic



She has previous work experience with the Transportation Cabinet, having served as Executive Director and General Counsel for the Cabinet's legal office during the Patton Administration.

Geri developed her administrative, legal and negotiating skills earlier in her career in Washington, DC, where she worked for the U.S. House of Representatives (Committee on Education and Labor) and for the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunities Commission.

Geri is a native of McDowell, in Floyd County, Kentucky. She was Valedictorian of her class (perfect 4.0 in twelve years) and earned the title "Miss Basketball" in 1977. In her 3 years of high school competition, Geri scored over 4,300 points and still holds several high school scoring records. She has been named to several Hall of Fames, including the National High School Sports Hall of Fame.

She attended the University of Kentucky on a basketball scholarship, where she earned both her B.A. (English) and J.D. degrees. Besides basketball, Geri excelled in racquetball, winning over 15 "open" state titles (KY, VA, IND) and being nationally ranked in the 25+ category.

Please welcome Geri back to the Transportation Cabinet.

### \*\*\*\*\*\* Our Mission: \*\*\*\*\*\*

To provide you with a quarterly newsletter that presents articles for your review and enjoyment. To serve as a sounding board for you to discuss issues that challenge or trouble you. To invoke thought and encourage your input for future articles.



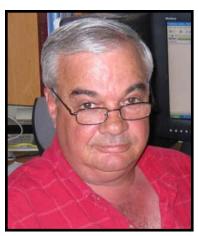


## **Betty Abernathy Fulton County Clerk**

Betty Abernathy was appointed to be the Fulton County Clerk on June 8, 2005. She had been elected to the position in 2006. She worked at a local bank and became an officer at the age of 23. Betty has worked with the public all through her career. She is married to Billy and they have two children and five grandchildren.

# Breathitt County Clerk Tony G. Watts

Breathitt County Clerk, Tony G. Watts, resides in Jackson with his wife Veronica and their son Kolby. Tony began his career in 1974 with the Transportation Cabinet, working with the Department of Highways at District Ten in Jackson. Tony was with the Department of Highways for twenty-two and a half years, where he served the Department as the Planning Engineer and the Bridge Replacement Coordinator.



On January 3, 1997, Tony left the Transportation Cabinet when he was appointed Breathitt County Clerk. Tony hit the ground running in the County Clerk's office by updating the office with a new layout to more efficiently serve his customers and improve the working conditions for his employees. Those improvements were followed by upgrades to the office equipment, improvements to the deed room and improved employee benefits.

Tony works hard to serve his beloved Breathitt County citizens. In his spare time he enjoys golfing, hunting, and fishing. He can often be found playing the guitar and mandolin in the company of his son Kolby, nephew Jeff, friend Paul (Gripper) and Pastor John.

Tony and his family attend Wolverine United Methodist Church, where Tony is devoted to mentoring the lives of young men by leading a Church sports program on Tuesday evenings.

He chairs the Breathitt Life Skills Center Committee, which has been a successful joint venture between the committee and area colleges to provide educational opportunities to all segments of Breathitt and surrounding counties.

Tony is a Past Master of the Breathitt Masonic Lodge, a member of the Kiwanis Club and a veteran of the Kentucky National Guard.

When you ask Tony about his experience as Breathitt County Clerk, he is fast to point out that any Clerk is only as good as his office staff, and with a quick grin he says his office is staffed with the best! Ask Tony about how he views his life and the grin spreads as he says, "God is Good – All the Time!"



# New Autism Awarness Plate



The Independent Pilots Association (IPA) visited the Transportation Cabinet on April 3 to join 17 year-old Natalie Pope and representatives of Families for Effective Autism Treatment (FEAT) for a special ceremony to raise awareness of Autism. The ceremony involved the presentation of checks totaling \$25,200 to the Cabinet. Those funds enable the Cabinet to begin production on an Autism Awareness plate designed by the Oldham County teen.

The IPA Foundation's \$5600 donation to FEAT allowed Pope, the daughter of A300 Captain Craig Pope, to complete her 14 –month long Autism Awareness license plate campaign. Kentucky requires the presale of 900 license plates before production of a specialty plate will begin. Prior to the IPA Foundation donation, Pope had sold 705 of the license plates. Se began the campaign as part of her Girl Scouts Gold Star project to raise awareness for Autism.



Natalie Pope, her family, and representatives from the IPA Foundation, Girl Scouts of America and FEAT presented checks to Willie Payton, Director for Kentucky's Division of Motor Vehicle Licensing in Frankfort.

### Gov. Steve Beshear Signs Booster Seat Legislation

New guidelines will help keep Kentucky children safe

Kentucky Gov. Steve Beshear signed legislation in April aimed at improving safety for child passengers in Kentucky. Senate Bill 120 requires that children younger than 7 and between 40 and 50 inches tall be secured in a booster seat.

"Booster seats are proven to be effective at saving young lives. This bill provides a reasonable approach to help achieve our ultimate goal of saving lives and reducing injuries. I commend the Kentucky Senate and House for their effort on this important issue," said Gov. Beshear.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, a properly installed, belt-positioning booster seat lowers the risk of injury to children by nearly 60 percent, compared with seat belts alone.

The bill requires law enforcement officers to issue "courtesy warnings" for violations until 2009,

after which there will be a \$30 fine with no court costs. In addition, violators will have the option to purchase a booster seat instead of paying the fine.

"This legislation will help ensure Kentucky children are better protected on our roadways," said Transportation Secretary Joe Prather.

Prather encouraged those who want guidance on proper booster seat installation to contact the cabinet's highway safety office at 1-888-374-8768.

Information about child seats and other safety issues can also be found online at http://highwaysafety.ky.gov



Erin Goin, Manager of the Office of Highway Safety's Child Passenger Safety program, shows KayLee how to properly sit in a booster.

### Goodbye Betty!



Betty Redd started her career with Transportation in Oct of 1979; she started as a clerical assistant and was promoted to supervisor within eight years of her career. She was then later promoted to Assistant Director, under then Director Mack Bushart, where she served until February 2006. Then in February 2006 she was appointed Director. She stayed in that position until her retirement date which was May of 2008 with 28 years plus service. Betty graduated from Shelby County



High School, and she attended Eastern Kentucky University. She has one daughter Dominique N. Redd. She resides in Shelby County, and is a member of the New Mt. Zion Baptist church where she serves as a Trustee. Betty enjoys working in her yard and spending time with her family. Her knowledge and expertise will be greatly missed.



### Click It or Ticket. The Choice Is Yours

### Enforcement Is Heightened and Motorists Are Reminded to Buckle Up!

Despite a wealth of data showing that seat belts save lives, and despite implementation of a primary seat belt law, Kentucky remains near the bottom nationally in seat belt usage rates, at only 72 percent. An annual awareness and enforcement campaign, "Click It or Ticket", attempted to change that as officers buckled down on those not buckled up from May 19 to June 1.

The awareness phase was kicked-off when the Transportation Cabinet sponsored the Drive Smart! Buckle Up 150 May 10 at the Kentucky Speedway. Highway safety officials, along with state and local law enforcement agencies, launched the enforcement phase with a press conference on May 16 at the Capitol. "Research shows there is still a problem with drivers and passengers not buckling up," Transportation Secretary Joe Prather said. "Clearly this is an indication that people are not taking the law seriously, or they're just not aware of the huge risk taken by not buckling up."

Seventy-two percent of passenger vehicle occupants who were involved in a fatal crash in 2006, but who were buckled up, survived. When worn correctly, seat belts are proven to reduce the risk of fatal injury to front-seat occupants by 45 percent – and by 60 percent in pickup trucks, SUVs, and minivans.

Checkpoints were conducted throughout Kentucky during the two-week mobilization. Those not buckled up received a citation; however, those who were buckled received a different kind of ticket – a "Click It FOR Tickets" voucher. Those following the rules of the road registered to win one set of six tickets to the Kentucky Speedway. Two sets of tickets will be provided to each of three races - the NASCAR Nationwide Series on June 14, the NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series on July 19, and the Indy Car Series on Aug. 9.

Additional rewards were provided at approximately 100 McDonald's restaurants on Monday, May 19 between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Police officers handed out prizes, coupons and informational flyers at area McDonald's drive-thrus. Drivers and passengers wearing seat belts received coupons as long as available.



Boyd Sigler, Director of the Office of Highway Safety, presents the Buckle Up 150 trophy to the winner.

"The Click It or Ticket campaign is not about writing tickets," Prather said. "It's about awareness and saving lives. We sincerely appreciate the partnerships developed with the Kentucky Speedway, McDonald's and all of the local and state law enforcement agencies. If one life is saved through the Click It or Ticket effort, it will be worth it."



Frankfort children spell out "Click It or Ticket" at the press conference at the Capitol.

### CONGRATULATIONS!



The Division of Motor Vehicle Licensing was recently honored for its work to improve service to customers during the vehicle titling process. The division won the Customer Service Excellence Award at the National American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrator's Conference in Hilton Head, South Carolina. Commissioner Dan Glass, Jr., accepted the award for the Division of Motor Vehicle Licensing for the great improvement to the Title Process.

On average, the Division of Motor Vehicle Licensing issues 1.4 million titles a year. This includes 170,000 duplicate titles issued each year. Previously, it would take a customer 22-32 days to receive a vehicle title. The Division of Motor Vehicle Licensing made several significant changes to the process thus reducing the title process to 7-8 days. With the title process change, customer service has greatly improved.

#### Pictured with the award are:

Names from left to right starting from the back are: David Feldhaus-Verification; Tony Momenpour-Verification; Melissa Crews-Verification, Fannie Haney-Receiving; Commissioner Dan Glass; Netta Harrod-Receiving; Gloria Brown-Receiving; Willie Payton-Director of MVL; Loretta Fowler-Branch Manager; Jeanette Walker-Supervisor of Receiving; Godwin Onodu-Assistant Director of MVL; Deputy Commissioner-Geri Grigsby.

Governor Steve Beshear visited Bowling Green on Monday June 30th to address the County Clerks during their Summer Conference. Among the topics addressed by the Governor was the new KAVIS 2 system.















# Snapshots from the County Clerks Convention June 29-July 2, 2008-Bowling Green, KY



### Motorcyclists and motorists encouraged to "share the road"



FRANKFORT, Ky. — Motorcycle fatalities have doubled since 2003, and Kentucky's fatality rate is now second-highest in the nation. One of every nine U.S. road fatalities involves motorcycle riders. The steady increase in fatalities over the past decade represents one of the commonwealth's greatest highway safety challenges.

To increase awareness and safer driving practices, the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet is promoting motorcycle safety April 21-May 2. All travelers are encouraged to "share the road," be courteous, and stay alert during the busy summer travel season.

"With warmer weather here, more motorcycles are back on the roads. Drivers of all vehicles need to be extra cautious," said Secretary of Transportation Joe Prather. "Motorcyclists can be difficult to see, so it's important that we all follow the rules of the road and stay alert."

Motorcyclists are far more vulnerable to death or serious injury than motor vehicle passengers in the event of a crash.

Research shows that approximately 80 percent of motorcycle crashes injure or kill a motorcycle rider, while only 20 percent of passenger car occupants are injured or killed. In fact, in terms of vehicle miles traveled, motorcyclists are 35 times more likely than passenger car occupants to die in a motor vehicle traffic crash.

### Safe driving tips:

- Remember to allow a motorcyclist the full lane width. Although it may seem as though there is enough room in a traf
  fic lane for both an automobile and a motorcycle, the motorcycle needs the full room to maneuver safely —never try
  to share a lane;
- Always signal your intentions before changing lanes or merging with traffic;
- Remember that motorcyclists are often hidden in a vehicle's blind spot or missed in a quick look due to their smaller size. Always make a visual check for motorcycles by checking mirrors and blind spots before entering or leaving a lane of traffic or proceeding at intersections.
- Be aware that motorcycle signals usually are not self-canceling and riders sometimes forget to turn them off. Wait to be sure the motorcycle is going to turn before you proceed.
- Remember that road conditions which are minor annoyances to passenger vehicles pose major hazards to motorcyclists. Be aware that motorcyclists may need to change speed or adjust their position within a lane suddenly in reaction to road and traffic conditions such as potholes, gravel, wet or slippery surfaces, pavement seams, railroad crossings, and grooved pavement.
- Allow more following distance, three or four seconds, when following a motorcycle so the motorcyclist has enough time to maneuver or stop in an emergency. And don't tailgate. In dry conditions, motorcycles can stop more quickly than cars.
- Follow the rules of the road, be alert to other vehicles, and always wear your seatbelt or DOT-compliant helmets and protective gear.

"Our message to all drivers is clear," Prather said. "Make this the first year in recent years when motorcycle fatalities do not increase. Help to share in the responsibility and do your part to share the road with everyone."

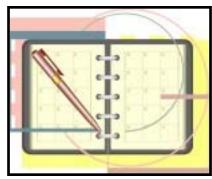
### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY**



If you would like to have your birthday in the newsletter, please mail or email your information to the address on the back page.

July 28 ~ Dan Ballard September 7 ~ Willie Payton

### Upcoming Dates



### **Meeting and Training Schedule**

July - TBD if necessary

August 20 - KCCA Legislative Committee and Training at Griffin Gate Marriott

**September 17** – KCCA Legislative Committee and Training at Griffin Gate Marriott

October 15 – KCCA Legislative Committee and Training at Transportation Cabinet (Pending)

**November 16-19** – KCCA Fall Conference at Griffin Gate Marriott

December 17 - KCCA Legislative Committee and Training at Griffin Gate Marriott

### **Future KCCA Conference Information**

KCCA Fall Conference (Lexington) – November 16-19, 2008

#### 2009

June – Lexington November – Northern Kentucky

#### 2010

June - Louisville November – Owensboro

#### 2011

June - Bowling Green November – Lexington

### Willie Payton is Appointed Director of Motor Vehicle Licensing Effective April 1, 2008



On April 1, 2008, Willie Payton was appointed as the Director of Motor Vehicle Licensing. He began working for the Division in 1984 and has spent his entire career working on the improvement of the AVIS System. While under the Patton Administration he became an Assistant Director for the Division.

Willie, a Franklin County native, is also a Vietnam Veteran. While he served in Vietnam he was a Crew Chief on a UH1 assault helicopter. He was awarded an Air Medal with over

30 Clusters for combat missions and an Air Medal with a V for Valor.

He and his wife, Mary Lou, have been married for 35 Years. They live on their farm in Peak's Mill. The evenings are spent tending to the cattle and working in the garden. When not in the office or on the farm, he can often times be found on the nearest golf course. Willie and Mary Lou have one daughter, Tiffany Payton who is also an employee with the Department of Vehicle Regulation.



# In Memory of Harold W. Ritchey



Anderson County Clerk Harold W. Ritchey, age 64, of Lawrenceburg, died unexpectedly Monday, June 2, 2008 at the Frankfort Regional Medical Center.

He was the son of the late Charles Thomas and Maggie B. McMichael. He was a member of First Baptist Church where he served as Church Moderator, Co-Chairman of the Finance Committee, Choir Member, and member of the "Hims of Harmony."

He was a member of Grand Lodge of KY F.&A.M., a member and past master, Anderson Masonic Lodge #90, Lawrenceburg Chapter No. 138 Royal Arch Masons, Post No. 34 American Legion, Past Masters Society of Central Kentucky, Past President of Anderson County Jaycees, Past President of Emma B. Ward PTA, Past County Chairman of Anderson County March of Dimes in 1971-1978. He was a former member and deacon at Fellowship Baptist Church, and former member and Secretary-Treasurer for the Lawrenceburg Optimist Club, former member of the Anderson County Band Boosters, Lions Club, and Rotary Club.

He served in the U.S. Army from 1964-1970.

Harold was a graduate of Anderson County High School and attended Kentucky State University.

In addition to serving as Anderson County Clerk for 18 years, Harold was an Auctioneer with Birdwhistle & Perry Real Estate, and held his brokers license in Real Estate.

He was elected to Lawrenceburg City Council, 1977 and 1979, formerly serving as Finance Chairman.

Harold W. Ritchey was a lifelong resident of Anderson County.

He is survived by 3 daughters (Sharon Robinson, and her husband, Brine, and Chasity Ritchey, both of Lawrenceburg, and Rita Sexton, of Versailles), 3 brothers (Tom Ritchey, and his wife, Susie, Clyde Ritchey, and his wife, Sue, and Charles Ritchey Jr., and his wife, Jolene, all of Lawrenceburg), 2 sisters (Katherine Thomas, Frankfort, and Ann Oliver, and her husband, Kenny, Lawrenceburg), and 5 grand-children.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Clarence Ritchey.

### **QUICK CALL LIST**

### MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSING

Willie Payton, Director Godwin Onodu, Assistant Director

#### **Help Desk/Vehicle Regulations**

 Cathy Bickers
 502-564-5301

 Judith Shaw
 502-564-5301

 Rick Woodside
 502-564-5301

 Will Kinnaird
 502-564-5301

 Angela Atha
 502-564-5301

 Josh Wade
 502-564-5301

### **Help Desk/NMVTIS**

Gary Semones 502-564-2737 Andy Sanders 502-564-2737 Krissie Brown 502-564-2737

#### Archived/Records

Vickie Woolums 502-564-2737 Corey Risk 502-564-2737

#### **AVIS Enhancements/Point of Sales**

 Pam Duncan
 502-564-5301

 Willie Payton
 502-564-5301

 Cathy Bickers
 502-564-5301

 Charla Masters
 502-564-5301

#### **Boats**

Denise Mathus 502-564-2737 Donna Smith 502-564-2737 Melissa Crews 502-564-2737

#### **Brand In Error**

Denise Mathus 502-564-2737

### **Certified Inspections or Inspections**

Denise Mathus 502-564-2737

### Copies of Microfilm/Title History Search/Verify Liens for lien holders

Alicia Morgan 502-564-2737 Corey Risk 502-564-2737 Jenny Wilson 502-564-2737 Teresa Hall 502-564-2737





### <u>Corrections/General</u> <u>Rejections/Reactivate</u>

Janice Jones 502-564-2737 Lori Mason 502-564-2737 Alicia Morgan 502-564-2737

### Correction within a reporting week

Jeff Atha 502-564-5301

### **Court Orders/ Foreign Titles & Trust**

Gary Semones 502-564-2737 Krissie Brown 502-564-2737 Denise Mathus 502-564-2737

#### **DUI/INSURANCE**

Jeff Atha 502-564-5301 Tonya Davis 502-564-5301 Kathy Price 502-564-5301

### **Forms**

Jeff Atha	502-564-5301
Tonya Davis	502-564-5301
Kathy Price	502-564-5301
Stuart Reagan	502-564-5301
Brian Terrell	502-564-5301
Rick Woodside	502-564-5301
Dan Ballard	502-564-5301

### **Inspections Only**

Julie Walker 502-564-2737

### <u>Inventory</u>

Stuart Reagan	502-564-5301
Brian Terrell	502-564-5301
Justin Carmack	502-564-5301
Rick Woodside	502-564-5301
Dan Ballard	502-564-5301
Cathy Bickers	502-564-5301
Angela Atha	502-564-5301

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Julie Walker	502-564-2737
Denise Mathus	502-564-2737
Gary Semones	502-564-2737
Terri Dees	502-564-2850

### NMVTIS Overrides Out of State Titles/Plate Reg.

Cathy Bickers	502-564-5301
Judith Shaw	502-564-5301
Angela Atha	502-564-5301
Rick Woodside	502-564-5301
Will Kinnaird	502-564-5301
Josh Wade	502-564-5301

### Odom. Corrections/Code 13 Not actual Miles & Exceeds

Andy Sanders 502-564-2737

### **Reactivating Junked Titles**

Janice Jones 502-564-2737 Connie Hill 502-564-2737 Lori Mason 502-564-2737

## Rebuilt Section/Letters of Authorization (Walk in & Mail) General Information Vin Plate Removal & Application)

Terri Dees 502-564-2850
Jennifer Whitehouse 502-564-2850
Melisa Sams 502-564-2850
Adrienne Perkins 502-564-2850
Dan Ballard 502-564-5301

### Receiving Needing paper work/Return App./Transmittals missing batches

Fannie Haney 502-564-2737 Linda Forbes 502-564-2737

### Refunds/(A)Automobile/(T)Trucks

Jeff Atha (A) 502-564-5301 Tonya Davis (A) 502-564-5301 Stuart Reagan (T) 502-564-5301

### **Return Titles**

Alicia Morgan 502-564-2737 Jenny Wilson 502-564-2737 Teresa Hall 502-564-2737

#### **Status Calls/General Information**

Wanda Batenic	502-564-2737
Melissa Crews	502-564-2737
Anna Clay	502-564-2737
Julie Walker	502-564-2737
Janice Jones	502-564-2737
Lori Mason	502-564-2737
Tony Momenpour	502-564-2737
Denise Mathus	502-564-2737
Gary Semones	502-564-2737
Donna Smith	502-564-2737
Alicia Morgan	502-564-2737
Linda Forbes	502-564-2737
Gloria Brown	502-564-2737

#### **Stolen Vehicles**

Todd Haydon 502-564-2737

### **Surrendered Titles to Other States**

Wanda Batenic 502-564-2737 Donna Smith 502-564-2737

### **Tow & Storage/Creditor in Posession**

Krissie Brown 502-564-2737 Gary Semones 502-564-2737

#### **VIN Corrections**

Julie Walker 502-564-2737 Wanda Batenic 502-564-2737

### **Weekly & Expired Inventory Reports**

Kathy Price 502-564-5301 Jeff Atha 502-564-5301

#### Fax #

Directors	502-564-1841
Corrections	502-564-1686
DUI	502-564-1841
Rebuilt	502-564-0471
Titles	502-564-0471
Registration	502-564-9314
Receiving	502-564-1686

### **HELPFUL WEB SITES & 800 NUMBERS**

### **Vehicle Titles**

1-800-244-9036

http://mvl.ky.gov

### **Vehicle Registration**

1-800-244-9410

http://mvl.ky.gov requirementpage.jsp

## Government & Community Services

1-888-567-1373

http://kycares.ky.gov

### **French Toast Casserole**

- 16 slices of white bread
- 2 (8oz.) packages of cream cheese
- 1 dozen eggs
- 1 cup of milk
- 1/3 cup maple syrup

Cover bottom of the casserole dish with 8 slices of bread.

Cube cream cheese on top of bread.

Cube 8 slices of bread on top of the cream cheese.

Mix together the eggs, milk, and maple syrup and pour over top of bread and cream cheese.

Refrigerate overnight.

Bake at 375° for 45 minutes.

Serve with warm maple syrup.

(You can also drizzle some syrup over the casserole after it comes out of the oven.)



### The County Clerk Connection....





Wants your feedback.
Email us your thoughts & suggestions!

Stacey.Hiles@ky.gov

Or call: (502) 564-9900 ext 4067

Our Address is: 200 Mero Street

Frankfort, Ky. 40622

The County Clerk Newsletter is now online.